

Teil 2

Show this thread

6

116

537

zeynep tufekci

@zeynep · Mar 17, 2020

Not forgetting that the Chinese government unleashed this pandemic in the first place with initial lies and cover-up: not racist. Claiming that universal mask wearing in Hong Kong and Taiwan (where it is mostly under control) was just superstition? Yeah.

Naomi Wu

@RealSexyCyborg · Mar 17, 2020

Replying to @zeynep and @nytimes

People in Asia have been explaining this for months- while Western journalists wrote articles claiming that we wore them because we're superstitious 🙄

twitter.com/RealSexyCyborg...

9

92

470

zeynep tufekci

@zeynep · Mar 17, 2020

Authorities say don't wear a mask unless you're sick but DO wear a mask if you are. How are you supposed to know? Plus, see key paper: many have mild, undetected illnesses but are infecting others. Universal mask wearing "would" have helped. Painful truth is we don't have enough.

Science 16 Mar 2020
eabb3221
DOI: 10.1126/science.abb3221

Article

Figures & Data

Info & Metrics

eLetters

PDF

Abstract

Estimation of the prevalence and contagiousness of undocumented novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV2) infections is critical for understanding the overall prevalence and pandemic potential of this disease. Here we use observations of reported infection within China, in conjunction with mobility data, a networked dynamic metapopulation model and Bayesian inference, to infer critical epidemiological characteristics associated with SARS-CoV2, including the fraction of undocumented infections and their contagiousness. We estimate 86% of all infections were undocumented (95% CI: [82%–90%]) prior to 23 January 2020 travel restrictions. Per person, the transmission rate of undocumented infections was 55% of documented infections (46%–62%), yet, due to their greater numbers, undocumented infections were the infection source for 79% of documented cases. These findings explain the rapid geographic spread of SARS-CoV2 and indicate containment of this virus will be particularly challenging.

10

252

757

zeynep tufekci

@zeynep · Mar 17, 2020

Hey, could someone from @Twitter please try to purge the mask-seller bots that are appearing in response to this? As the article points out, it really sucks but here we are and the health care workers desperately need these masks more. @safety @delbius

4

45

349

zeynep tufekci

@zeynep · Mar 17, 2020

Also, everyone who wrote such articles, please rethink the harm of this message. The weird claim that people in Asian countries (where this pandemic is much more under control) with the deep experience of SARS wore masks out of superstition is part of the reason we are here.

TIME

intervention," Schaffner says. Other reasons are purely psychological. One stems from the fear of losing control to a virus we know little about preventing. "There's not much we can do, so we're all walking around feeling rather victimized by this virus," says Schaffner. "By using a mask, even if it doesn't do a lot, it moves the locus of control to you, away from the virus. It gives the individual a greater sense of control in this otherwise not-controlled situation."

Lynn Bufka, a clinical psychologist and senior director for practice, research and policy at the American Psychological Association, suspects that people are clinging to masks for the same reason they knock on wood or avoid walking under ladders. "Even if experts are saying it's really not going to make a difference, a little [part of] people's brains is thinking, well, it's not going to hurt. Maybe it'll cut my risk just a little bit, so it's worth it to wear a mask," she says. In that sense, wearing a mask is a "superstitious behavior": if someone wore a mask when coronavirus or another viral illness was spreading and did not get sick, they may credit the mask for keeping them safe and keep wearing it.

Seeing people around you wearing masks when you're not can also heighten anxiety about coronavirus and make it seem like the virus is nearby and spreading, even if it's not, Bufka says. "It could make you feel like, wait, I'm

6

98

494

zeynep tufekci

@zeynep · Mar 17, 2020

New paper: Hong Kong has not only contained COVID-19 for the moment, they've drastically reduced flu rates with social distancing, hygiene and near universal mask wearing. (Note: their government is unpopular and wasn't on board. The people acted anyway.) [medrxiv.org/content/10.1101...](https://medrxiv.org/content/10.1101.2020.03.17.20071111v1)

11-14. We analysed data on laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases, influenza surveillance data in outpatients of all ages, and influenza

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3/21

Teil 3

influenza surveillance data in outpatients of all ages, and influenza hospitalisations in children. We estimated the daily effective reproduction number (R_t), for COVID-19 and influenza A(H1N1). Findings: COVID-19 transmissibility has remained at or below 1, indicating successful containment to date. Influenza transmission declined substantially after the implementation of social distancing measures and changes in population behaviours in late January, with a 44% (95% confidence interval, CI: 34% to 53%) reduction in transmissibility in the community, and a 33% (95% CI: 24% to 43%) reduction in transmissibility based on paediatric hospitalization rates. In the two surveys we estimated that 74.5% and 97.5% of the general adult population wore masks when going out, and 61.3% and 90.2% avoided going to crowded places, respectively. Implications: Containment measures, social distancing measures and changes in population behaviour have successfully prevented spread of COVID-19. The social distancing measures and behavioural changes led to a substantial reduction in influenza transmission in early February 2020. However, it may be challenging to avoid fatigue and sustain these measures and population behaviours as COVID-19 continues to spread globally. Funding: Health and Medical Research Fund, Hong Kong

11 436 905

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 17, 2020

Taiwan also quickly ramped up domestic production of masks and had a sensible plan to curb hoarding while ensuring access. Along with other sensible and non-draconian measures, they also contained COVID-19 for the moment despite a lot of travel with China. foreignpolicy.com/2020/03/16/tai...

Recognizing that it had to ensure an adequate supply of medical equipment, including face masks, for health professionals and the public, Taiwan's government stopped exports of surgical face masks on January 24 while requesting local companies to step up production. Daily production is set to reach 10 million soon, divided between the public, medical, and industrial sectors.

The government also took control of face mask distribution from the private sector on Jan. 31, ensuring there would be no hoarding of supplies or exploitative pricing, as has happened in other places such as Hong Kong. Taiwan also implemented a purchasing policy on Feb. 6 in which every Taiwanese can buy a certain amount of adult and children's masks per week from pharmacies and clinics for NT\$5 (\$0.17) each. And to allow for easier distribution and prevent long lines outside clinics, Taiwanese can now start ordering their masks online and pick them up at a later date.

7 147 457

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 17, 2020

This is another important point. The "flatten-the-curve" urgency will eventually lead to "life must go on while we wait for vaccines/herd-immunity" and some form of mask-wearing may well be necessary for the transition.

James Tang @James69888 · Mar 17, 2020

Replying to @GiaTashaTomasso @thrasherxy and @zeynep

True, but this may go on for more than a year. We will need masks sooner or later.

8 106 431

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 18, 2020

Yep. That's why we can't just say "wear masks only if you're sick." Besides the fact that we're not testing enough so people can't know if they're sick, and that many can be infectious without any symptoms, it just creates a stigma around wearing a mask. [twitter.com/NathanWomack/...](https://twitter.com/NathanWomack/)

You're unable to view this Tweet because this account owner limits who can view their Tweets. [Learn more](#)

6 82 340

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 18, 2020

Please read this whole thread. We are eventually going to have to release people from lockdown, and universal mask wearing (not N95, but surgical masks) is one way to do it with less harm. twitter.com/scottgottlieb...

This Tweet is unavailable.

6 115 344

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 18, 2020

Folks don't @ me BUT do it: arrange locally to allow people to donate N95 masks to hospitals, maybe exchange with surgical masks. Hospitals are out of N95s; CDC is telling them to use surgical masks instead; people are sitting on N95s but hearing some willing to donate/exchange.

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Teil 4

[illegible]

Teil 5

The sooner we stop misinforming people about the need and efficacy of universal mask wearing, the better. Not telling the truth now will make it harder to pivot after the mask shortage. Also people can see through the bullshit and mistrust fuels hoarding.

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 22, 2020
 I'm going to say it outright. It's crystal clear that we'll have to adopt universal mask wearing as soon as we're over the shortage for healthcare workers. People still saying masks don't help, people won't know how to wear them, they can be harmful etc. are doing real harm.
[Show this thread](#)

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 23, 2020
 This top-down mask misinformation will cause another crisis: other critical workers (stores, pharmacies, delivery) will stop showing up because lack of masks means they are at high risk. Yes, hospitals first but then everyone at the front line and then all of us need to mask up.

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 23, 2020
 Great overview of the evidence on masks. Notes that review of SARS studies (same family of virus as the one causing COVID-19) found that "face masks were the most consistently effective intervention" (though keep washing your hands). Read it yourself! medium.com/@adrien.burch/

Can face masks offer protection against SARS?

According to research on the SARS epidemic, **face masks were the most consistently effective intervention for reducing the contraction and spread of SARS**. In a [Cochrane Review](#) on the subject, 6 out of 7 studies showed that face masks (surgical and N95) offered significant protection against SARS. Hand washing was also very effective, supported by 4 out of 7 studies in a multivariate analysis.

Although most of the studies in the Cochrane Review were on medical workers in a hospital setting, one study followed community transmission of SARS in Beijing. It found that consistently wearing a mask in public was associated with a 70% reduction in risk of catching SARS. Additionally, the authors of the paper noted that most people in the community wore simple surgical masks, not N95 respirators.

This may be why public health agencies in many other countries encourage — or even require — the general public to wear face masks. It may also be why the CDC currently recommends that we wear face masks while in the same room as a sick family member who is not wearing a mask.

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 23, 2020
 Indeed. This is false. After the shortage, we will need to expand to everyone. How will we convince them? Lol, a week ago you couldn't possibly wear a mask correctly, soooo complicated, and didn't need them but now you can and must wear them. Won't work.

Joe Calhoun @jbc_3 · Mar 23, 2020
 Replying to @zeynep
 Went to the grocery store today (Charlottesville) and all the workers were maskless. Asked the young checker if the store had had any conversations about having checkers wear masks and she said no, she'd been told it was not needed unless you are sick.

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 23, 2020
 This is terrible. Top-down misinformation has made life difficult for mask-wearers. I think the only way forward is honesty plus real apologies from people who misled us. It's a real pickle, but very difficult otherwise to get to where we need to be.

Janus Rose @janusrose · Mar 23, 2020
 Replying to @zeynep
 i literally had a Man Online tell me i'm only wearing a mask "for instagram likes". i've been delivering supplies and food in my neighborhood and i'm so tired of this!!

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 23, 2020
 Some evidence from Hong Kong that paper towel outer layer and 3-ply soft tissue inner layer may be an acceptable "and" disposable replacement for surgical masks—perhaps with a plastic folder face shield. Can people with access to labs please test this?
consumer.org.hk/ws/en/news/202...

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(Image 11) Finished Version



15

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278

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 23, 2020

The article is from February 5, but at this point, tweeting it out like this goes in the same folder as the WMD lies about Iraq. I don't know how else to put it. We have solid evidence of asymptomatic spread, thus obvious need for universal mask wearing. twitter.com/latimes/status...

Los Angeles Times @latimes · Mar 23, 2020

How to prevent coronavirus: Wash your hands and ditch the mask [latimes.com/science/story/...](https://latimes.com/science/story/)

9

61

278

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 23, 2020

"Television broadcasts, subway station announcements and smartphone alerts provide endless reminders to wear face masks". The piece doesn't mention it but the Korean government distributes masks to make sure everyone has them. Masks aren't an afterthought. twitter.com/max_fisher/sta...

Max Fisher @Max_Fisher · Mar 23, 2020

South Korea and Italy had near-concurrent outbreaks that initially followed a parallel, terrifying trajectory.

Mere weeks later, as Italy reports 793 deaths in one day, Korea has two. Some days it has "zero".

Me and Choe Sang-Hun report how they did it: nytimes.com/2020/03/23/wor...

[Show this thread](#)

3

100

250

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 24, 2020

From an article that compiled interviews with top experts on what works to slow the spread of this coronavirus. Universal mask wearing!

Abraar Karan @AbraarKaran · Mar 24, 2020

8/ Masks were a whole different ball game as well.

Everyone wore masks. Part of this was to prevent transmission.

But part of it was also to reduce stigma against the sick.

If only the sick wear masks, they may be hesitant.

But if everyone does, then no one is missed.

[Show this thread](#)

2

59

176

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 24, 2020

Singapore. twitter.com/liz_jn_shangha...

This Tweet is unavailable.

4

35

120

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 24, 2020

Hong Kong is the densest city in the world. It has a tiny fraction of New York's cases. Almost everyone wears masks though and they take the distancing seriously. twitter.com/brianmrosentha...

This Tweet is unavailable.

19

195

519

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 24, 2020

Future generations will be driven batty by the amount of concern over contamination from cardboard boxes—a tall risk: porous surface, exponential decay—compared with protecting the pathways to OUR RESPIRATORY SYSTEM WITH MASKS FOR A RESPIRATORY ILLNESS

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Teil 7

exponential decay—compared with protecting the pathways to OUR RESPIRATORY SYSTEM WITH MASKS FOR A RESPIRATORY ILLNESS WITH ASYMPTOMATIC SPREAD. 🚫

13 155 456



zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 26, 2020

I believe that this is the best temporary make-your-own-mask solution. It's disposable, requires only paper towel and tissue and had promising lab tests.



scmp.com
Make your own mask: Hong Kong scientists reveal temporary solution...
Lab tests by City University find home-made masks achieve 80 to 90 per cent function of regular ones in terms of filtration of aerosol and ...

14 236 483



zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 26, 2020

The Czech Republic converted, quickly, to universal mask wearing, including home-made masks as necessary about a week ago. There really are no arguments left against promoting universal mask wearing and yet media/guidelines still say no need.

Jeremy Howard @jeremyphoward · Mar 25, 2020
The person who really kicked off #masks4all in Czech Republic was @PetrLudwig with his powerful and compelling video. A key part of his message: wearing a mask is a selfless, pro-social behavior
youtube.com/watch?v=K5xy2n...

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13 137 243



zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 26, 2020

Another misinformation I see floating widely: without eye-protection masks are useless. No. It's a respiratory disease. Goggles help lessen risk, sure, but key route is respiratory. Masks are key. Surface contamination from boxes is similarly a tail risk. (But wash your hands!)

4 36 140



zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 26, 2020

When misinformation comes from the top (Saddam's Iraq has WMD!), as with masks, the job of journalists is to investigate, to speak with independent experts "and" find whistleblowers within these organizations and get the truth out there. Sooner the better.

World Health Organization (WHO) W... @WH... · Mar 26, 2020

If you do not have any respiratory symptoms, such as fever, cough, or runny nose, you do not need to wear a medical mask. When used alone, masks can give you a false feeling of protection and can even be a source of infection when not used correctly. ➡ bit.ly/2QN3QOp

The media could not be played.

Reload

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aerzteblatt.de/nachrichten/11...
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YouTube #StayHome

In Czech Republic, masks have been compulsory since March 18th





Noste roušku

"your mask protects me, my mask protects you"

There have only been 2 deaths in the country so far. They do lots of testing.



We need #masks4all

In the Czech Republic, masks have been compulsory since March 18th. The country has only 2 deaths (as at March 24) and the growth of new cases has fl...


13 170 278  

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 28, 2020
 Please look at the chart, folks. twitter.com/drdsidmukherjee...

This Tweet is unavailable. [Learn more](#)



6 71 142  

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 28, 2020
 You know whose going to pay the biggest price for WHO's incorrect recommendations on masks? Poor, crowded countries like India. It's perhaps the only effective, low-cost intervention available to them. People within WHO with a conscience have to speak up.





economictimes.indiatimes.com

Everyone need not wear a mask: Govt issues coronavirus advisory o...
 While there has been a mad rush across the country for buying masks, the advisory says that everyone need not wear a mask and ...

5 106 232  



zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 28, 2020
 I'm seeing people modeling length of lockdown time needed in the US using Wuhan parameters. What we're doing isn't anywhere near Wuhan did. Even the best we're doing doesn't resemble Wuhan. There are categories of action that were done in Wuhan that we haven't even discussed.

6 52 167  

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 28, 2020
 I hope this is true!!! But please, start today. Make a homemade mask and wear it. Use a surgical mask—hopefully CDC can give us guidance on sanitization and reuse. Hospitals can distribute a few surgical masks per person—lessening the pileup at their door.

Matt McCarthy @DrMattMcCarthy · Mar 28, 2020

NEW: CDC guidance on masks expected to change in next 10 days. Americans will be advised to wear masks in everyday life. Current recommendation is for high-risk groups only.

12 67 154  

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Mar 28, 2020
 Yeah, please stop the hemming-and-hawing writing folks. The evidence is clear, the arguments are clear. Don't bury the findings. Universal mask wearing is one of the best ways to protect the whole community during a

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Teil 13

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zeynep tufekci

@zeynep · Mar 31, 2020

Just adding this here. Also reminder that a peer-reviewed publication looking at what worked for SARS, same family as COVID, found that "masks" were the most effective intervention—better than hand-washing. Keep washing hands and distance though! Need all!

Jeremy Howard

@jeremyphoward · Mar 25, 2020

What's happening here? Does this masks thing really make sense, scientifically? Yes, it does!

Here's 34 scientific papers that all point to the same thing: masks (even home made ones) really work to dramatically reduce the spread of covid-19.

tiny.cc/maskswork

Show this thread

1. Professional and Home-Made Face Masks Reduce Exposure to Respiratory Infections among the General Population
2. Coronavirus can travel twice as far as official 'safe distance' study says
3. Testing the Efficacy of Homemade Masks: Would They Protect in an Influenza Pandemic? | Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness
4. What is the efficacy of standard face masks compared to respirator masks in preventing COVID-type respiratory illnesses in vitro and in vivo?
5. Aerosol and Surface Stability of SARS-CoV-2 as Compared with SARS-CoV-1
6. Addressing COVID-19 Face Mask Shortages: evaluating decontamination methods for N95 mask reuse.
7. Rational use of face masks in the COVID-19 pandemic
8. Influenza Virus Aerosols in Human Exhaled Breath: Particle Size, Culturability, and Effect of Surgical Masks
9. Effectiveness of Masks and Respirators Against Respiratory Infections in Healthcare Workers: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis
10. Physical interventions to interrupt or reduce the spread of respiratory viruses
11. Effectiveness of N95 respirators versus surgical masks against influenza: A systematic review and meta-analysis
12. Modeling the Effectiveness of Respiratory Protective Devices in Reducing Influenza Outbreak
13. Simple Respiratory Mask
14. What Hospitals Should Do to Prepare for an Influenza Pandemic
15. Flight of the aerosol
16. The bacterial and viral filtration performance of breathing system filters
17. Modeling the Effectiveness of Respiratory Protective Devices in Reducing Influenza Outbreak
18. Do N95 Respirators Provide 95% Protection Level Against Airborne Viruses, and How Adequate Are Surgical Masks?
19. N95 Respirators and Surgical Masks
20. Performance of N95 Respirators: Filtration Efficiency for Airborne Microbial and Inert Particles
21. Performance of an N95 Filtering Facepiece Respirator and a Surgical Mask During Human Breathing: Two Pathways for Particle Penetration
22. Reuse Mask? DIY Mask? Consumer Council
23. Editor's Choice: Transcending Entry of Seasonal Influenza-Attenuated Virus Aerosols and the Efficacy of N95 Respirators, Surgical Masks, and Eye Protection in Humans
24. A quantitative assessment of the efficacy of surgical and N95 masks to filter influenza virus in patients with acute influenza

2

83

145

zeynep tufekci

@zeynep · Mar 31, 2020

We should've ramped up national production in January, distributing N95s to hospitals and surgical masks to people like Taiwan did. Only three "total" deaths in Taiwan as of today, despite extensive travel to China before. But here we are. Let's start now.

Ryan Struyk

@ryanstruyk · Mar 31, 2020

FAUCI: "When we get in a situation where we have enough masks, I believe there will be some very serious consideration about more broadening this recommendation of using masks."

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49

107

zeynep tufekci

@zeynep · Mar 31, 2020

Yes, I've been trying to make that point for weeks. Distributing some masks now: fewer intubations in three weeks. Each intubation has massive need for PPE compared to that mask. The trick is managing the transition without depriving medical workers now.

Otro gringo haciéndose el gringo

@litwicki · Mar 31, 2020

Replying to @zeynep

They just don't seem to get that if more people "outside" of hospitals were wearing masks, there would be fewer people "inside" hospitals. Holding back all the masks only for healthcare workers only ensures hospitals will be more overwhelmed & healthcare workers more at risk.

1

19

64

zeynep tufekci

@zeynep · Mar 31, 2020

On the one hand, thank you. On the other hand, it was a hard piece to write, personally (a lot of risk). On the other other hand, the science was clear and media should challenge authorities when/if the science/facts warrant it. Otherwise what's the point?

Arjun Moorthy

@juicemoorthy · Mar 31, 2020

I've been a fan of @zeynep since before Twitter and Tear Gas. Here she rightly calls out the WHO and CDC for improper guidance on masks, though she could have also called out the media more generally for not questioning the guidance when plenty of data to the contrary. twitter.com/theactualnews...

Show this thread

4

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66

zeynep tufekci

@zeynep · Mar 31, 2020

In the digital age, neither journalists nor pundits need to spend too much time merely repeating what the authorities say, but rather also evaluating it in a credible and fact and science based manner. No science/facts=crank. No evaluation=irrelevant.

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14/21

it in a credible and fact and science based manner. No science/facts=crank. No evaluation=irrelevant.

The Factual @thefactualnews · Mar 31, 2020

However, the media did not change its stance on masks until March 17, when @zeynep recognized the media's shortcomings in a @nytimes article. Tufekci acknowledged precisely just what was wrong with CDC messaging, and how the media failed to question it. nyti.ms/2UuE6Zk

[Show this thread](#)

3

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zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Apr 1, 2020

See this screenshot of Taiwan's action on masks (link has list of all its actions). Taiwan had extensive ties/travel with China but it has a total of five COVID-19 deaths and only a few hundred cases. Its schools have been open for more than a month.

cdn.jamanetwork.com/ama/content.pu...

Actions on Resource Allocation	
Date	Policy and/or Action
Jan 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government allocates masks to retailers and sets price limit of 50 masks at NT\$300 (USD \$10) Ministries of Health and Welfare promote quarantine efforts and setup notification mechanism through travel agents and tour guides Ministry of Economic Affairs lists daily local mask manufacturing capability at 2.44 million units which surpasses the local demand of 1.3 million per day
Jan 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Testing of COVID-19 to take place at Taiwan CDC or eight designated hospitals Export ban on disposable surgical masks until Feb 23 Outbound travelers can only take up to 250 masks Violation of the ban results in confiscation and a fine of 3 times the masks' value
Jan 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 million masks released daily from local manufacturers Only 1-3 masks are allowed per purchase at convenience stores, local pharmacies, and medical supply stores Mask prices are currently fixed at NT\$8 apiece (USD \$0.27) Taiwan's High Prosecutors Office starts a nationwide campaign to stop profiteering by raising prices on disease prevention products; penalty is 1-7 years in jail and a fine up to NT\$5 million (USD \$167,000) 4 million surgical masks produced per day with 1.4 million allotted to hospitals and medical workers with remaining 2.6 million for consumer sales
Jan 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government requisitions surgical masks from Jan 31 to Feb 15
Feb 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mask prices drop to NT\$6 apiece (USD \$0.20)
Feb 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Government facilities (dorms or spare military camps) used for quarantine. Soldiers mobilized to production lines at local mask factories. 60 additional surgical mask machines being installed with 10% of capacity reserved for children. Each machine can manufacture 100,000 surgical masks per day. Normally, 60 production lines requires 4-6 months to activate but all will be ready in one month. The daily output will be boosted to 10 million masks a day.

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zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Apr 1, 2020

(Apparently link broken so here it is again, a list of actions Taiwan took to contain the epidemic. cdn.jamanetwork.com/ama/content.pu...)

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zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Apr 2, 2020

Health care workers! Please consider signing this petition asking for CDC and the WHO to give clear, evidence-based guidance on masks. Every person who's not infected is one less patient you have to care for during this time. Folks, feel free to share. medwiser.org/sign-petition-...

International Physicians and Health Care workers call on WHO and CDC to reserve PPE for frontline medical teams and recommend nonmedical fabric face masks be worn by public.

We the physicians and health care workers around the world, working on the front lines fighting against COVID-19 and treating victims of this disease call on the CDC and WHO to add further safety information to their public recommendations during this escalating public health crisis. We trust the CDC and WHO to lead our medical teams and help us keep the public safe from harm. During this crisis, the public education and information we receive from WHO and CDC is crucial to keeping us all safe and to minimize further loss of life. We hope to work with these esteemed organizations to implement their recommendations to contain COVID-19.

COVID-19 is a novel virus. Thus far we have learned it is a respiratory virus that is highly infectious being spread by asymptomatic carriers and those lacking noticeable symptoms through large droplet transmission. As such, face masks have an important role to play in slowing the spread of this disease by people who may not even know they are infected. Several countries including, Hong Kong, Taiwan, China and South Korea have recommended all healthcare workers and the public wear facemasks to prevent community transmission. The fall in the number of reported cases of people contracting the disease in these areas demonstrates

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zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Apr 2, 2020

These articles aren't even attempting to be coherent anymore. There is no known evidence of harm. It's a lot of weird speculation—all of which flies in the face of all the overwhelming scientific evidence we have.

RTE News @rtenews · Apr 2, 2020

The debate around mask-wearing is highly complex and, crucially, experts are warning that ill-fitting and improperly worn masks can do more harm than good, writes @EIMcM rte.ie/news/2020/0402...

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Teil 15

more harm than good, writes @ElMcM rte.ie/news/2020/0402...

8 25 95

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Apr 3, 2020

But the world is moving. Time for WHO and the CDC to catch up to making evidence-based recommendation for face masks. People need guidance on sanitization/reuse for cloth, and we need rationed distribution once we have surgical mask production catch up.

Mayor Eric Adams @NYCMayor · Apr 2, 2020

We have new guidance for New Yorkers:

We're advising New Yorkers to wear a face covering when you go outside and near others. It can be a scarf, a bandana or one you make at home. But PLEASE: save medical masks for our health care workers & first responders who truly need them.

[Show this thread](#)

2 27 70

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Apr 3, 2020

Finally. Finally.

Steve Herman @W7VOA · Apr 3, 2020

Guidance from @CDCgov on face masks coming within days. Our latest @VOANews report: voanews.com/science-health... #coronavirus #COVID 19 @WhiteHouse

5 13 62

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Apr 3, 2020

I had people tell me that my insistence on continuing to point out the overwhelming scientific evidence in favor of universal mask wearing was about my "anxiety". In reality, I have the privilege of staying home. Many don't. This was always about them.

Lois Beckett @loisbeckett · Apr 3, 2020


Jason Hargrove, a Detroit bus driver, posted an emotional Facebook video about a woman coughing on his bus without covering her mouth.

Within days, he was sick.

Less than 2 weeks later, he was dead.

Fellow drivers ask: what protections will they get?
google.com/amp/s/amp.free...

[Show this thread](#)



12 67 213

zeynep tufekci @zeynep · Apr 3, 2020

Yep. Totally okay for ordinary people to think CDC/WHO got this right. They normally do! But if you needed to separate the good science journalist from the one that parrots official advice without analytic thinking/deep digging themselves... Litmus moment!
twitter.com/enscand/status...

You're unable to view this Tweet because this account owner limits who can view their Tweets. [Learn more](#)

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zeynep tufekci

@zeynep · Apr 3, 2020


...

Yes! Finally! One thing left: CDC should issue guidelines for best practices for home-made masks and their re-use and sanitization, and consider distributing/rationing a few surgical masks per person in hotspots with instructions for sanitization/reuse.

Reuters

@Reuters · Apr 3, 2020

Americans should cover faces and also keep distance: Dr. Fauci
reut.rs/3aME8BC



4

39

87

zeynep tufekci

@zeynep · Apr 3, 2020

...

The WHO is also, finally, finally, finally shifting. WHO, like the CDC, should quickly issue guidelines for best practices and sanitization. Time for them to step up and do what they are supposed to do, and can do.

Jeremy Howard

@jeremyphoward · Apr 3, 2020

New @WHO guidance finally opens the door to #Masks4All. The science described here is incorrect still, but hopefully this step makes more jurisdictions feel able to introduce laws or guidance.
reuters.com/article/us-hea...

[Show this thread](#)

8

42

112

zeynep tufekci

@zeynep · Apr 3, 2020

...

I can't wait to put an end to this thread.

7

5

87

zeynep tufekci

@zeynep · Jun 5, 2020

...

The WHO finally "encourages" the public to wear masks. What a tragic waste of time and a needless squandering of medical authority amidst a pandemic. By March, there was enough evidence of presymptomatic and asymptomatic transmission for me to write this.

Fourth, the W.H.O. and the C.D.C. told the public to wear masks if they were sick. **However, there is increasing evidence of asymptomatic transmission, especially through younger people who have milder cases and don't know they are sick but are still infectious.** Since the W.H.O. and the C.D.C. do say that masks **lessen the chances that infected people will infect others, then everyone should use masks.** If the public is told that only the sick people are to wear masks, then those who do wear them will be stigmatized and people may well avoid wearing them if it screams "I'm sick." Further, it's very difficult to be tested for Covid-19 in the United States. How are people supposed to know for sure when to mask up?

Fifth, places like Hong Kong and Taiwan that jumped to action early with social distancing and universal mask wearing have the pandemic under much greater control, despite having significant travel from mainland China. Hong Kong health officials [credit universal mask wearing](#) as part of the solution and [recommend](#) universal mask wearing. In fact, Taiwan responded to the coronavirus by immediately [ramping up mask production](#).

World Health Organization (WHO)

@WHO · Jun 5, 2020

"In light of evolving evidence, WHO advises that governments should encourage the general public to wear masks where there is widespread transmission & physical distancing is difficult, such as on public transport, in shops or in other confined or crowded environments"-@DrTedros

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7

67

183

zeynep tufekci

@zeynep

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17/21



zeynep tufekci

@zeynep

Also not only is there no evidence for this claim, there is emerging evidence for the opposite, and there is decades of evidence from other safety devices that this concern is not warranted, and if this was a thing, it would also apply to hand-washing. 😊



World Health Organization (WHO)

@WHO · Jun 5, 2020

"Masks can also create a false sense of security, leading people to neglect measures such as hand hygiene and physical distancing"-@DrTedros #COVID19


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3:52 PM · Jun 5, 2020

40 Retweets

7 Quotes

155 Likes

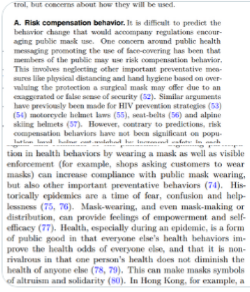


zeynep tufekci

@zeynep · Jun 5, 2020

Replying to @zeynep


Here's a preprint of a paper (I'm a co-author) where we review the "false sense of security" claim and explain why it doesn't stand to evidence at all, and why, on the contrary, universal masks would be expected to lessen stigma and heighten solidarity. preprints.org/manuscript/2020060101



10

48

127



zeynep tufekci


@zeynep · Jun 5, 2020

If some past person had told me I'd spend most of my energy in the first months of a pandemic arguing against CDC and WHO guidelines, that they would drag their feet despite mounting evidence, and that we'd rely on grassroots movements instead, I'd have dismissed them as nuts.

13

38


268



zeynep tufekci

@zeynep · Jun 6, 2020

I've been arguing for months that the most likely outcome of masks would be INCREASED adherence to distancing—because that's what social science suggests. That baseless "false sense of security" claim had no evidence for it. Now, experimental confirmation.



Babak Javid


@javid_lab · Jun 6, 2020

This is a cool study! Masks/goggles increase social/physical distancing by OTHERS to wearers: as measured by remote sensing technology! Doesn't tackle the straw man 'masks make wearers more reckless', but suggests even ineffective masks may protect by increasing physical distances twitter.com/EricTopol/stat...

17

254

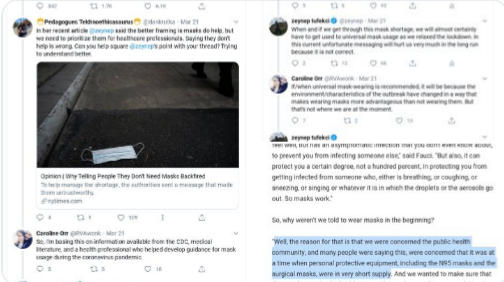
704



zeynep tufekci

@zeynep · Jun 15, 2020

So Dr. Fauci has just said the public was told not to wear masks because they "were in very short supply." I just want to remind everyone what it was like in March—viral threads telling us not to wear masks. (Not picking on one person—she was misled like everyone else).



56

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18/21

[illegible]



Jeremy Howard

@jeremyphoward · Jun 24, 2020

I just found this very concerning podcast with epidemiologist Ian Lipkin, former WHO adviser on SARS, who said that he chose "not" to release information that masks were strongly protective against SARS, in order to protect supply.

microbe.tv/twiv/twiv-spec...

[Show this thread](#)

conversation almost a month ago with Arnold Monteu and Alison Ayeleo who are real in the whole topic of facemasks and whether they are or not valuable. And back in 2003 there was a WHO investigation it wasn't as large as some people would like to see so I have to do these things opportunistically that showed that facemasks, whether surgical or not, had a dramatic impact on community transmission and that met one particular bar that that was really compelling. In epidemiological research when you see something called a dose-response relationship, it's very compelling. So **people who use facemasks in a consistent way had a 71% reduction in community transmission** and if they used them intermittently it was 60%. I felt like we talked about it but there was no access to facemasks and so I was I thought about trying to publish this because if I did that, if we did that, it would have deprived people on the front lines because there weren't sufficient facemasks from getting access to it would have made things worse, so I didn't proceed with that. So **that's something that's going to go in the memoirs rather than in the written record.**

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